



**MARSHFIELD CLINIC®**

**Testimony before the Senate Health Committee**

**Tuesday December 13, 2011**

**Robert Phillips, MD**

**Internal Medicine/Geriatrics and Government Relations**

**Marshfield Clinic**

**SB 317 - Controlled Substances**

Chair Vukmir, members of the Senate Health Committee, and staff, I am Dr. Robert Phillips, a practicing general internist and geriatrician at Marshfield Clinic and Medical Director of State Government Relations. I am here today to testify in support of SB 317 - Controlled Substances which you have authored Chair Vukmir.

Marshfield Clinic, based in north central Wisconsin, is one of Wisconsin's largest not-for-profit health systems which covers geographically approximately 1/3 of Wisconsin. We employ 780 physicians, 40 dentists, and close to 200 advanced practice providers including NP's, PA's, nurse mid-wives, and other mid-level providers. We have 54 centers in our primary service territory employing over 7,000 staff. We provide care from 84 different medical/surgical specialties. All of our centers are connected by our in-house electronic medical record - Cattaills MD created by physicians for physicians. This allows for ready access to our labs, digitized x-rays, medication lists, allergies, consultations, and immunization records.

Marshfield Clinic's mission is to provide accessible quality health care, to participate in leading edge research to find the next cancer cure, and to train the next generation of physicians and other health professionals to serve in rural Wisconsin. Our vision is to be the health system of choice for cost-effective evidenced-based health care that patients seek and communities benefit from population health initiatives. Based on our experience with the national Physician Group Demonstration Project, a Medicare chronic disease care management program, utilizing our in-house EMR, care coordination, 24-hour nurse phone line, and anti-coagulation clinic we have demonstrated improved quality and reduced preventable hospitalizations leading to costs savings. We are committed to enhancing quality, safety, and efficiency of health care so that patients, payers, and government realize value in health care purchasing and not just units of service.

SB 317 - Controlled Substances is a very important step forward allowing physicians and other providers to electronically prescribe Schedule II drugs which will allow for safe, timely, efficient, effective and patient-centered care. By allowing electronic submission of such prescriptions specifically the drugs with high abuse potential, more accurate and more readily tracked prescriptions can be provided. Electronic prescribing allows for more timely receipt by a pharmacy in order to dispense a medication. Electronic prescribing of Schedule II drugs is part of the Phase I steps to Meaningful Use implementation and compliance. Further deployment of electronic prescribing will support WISHIN'S goals to disseminate Health Information Technology (HIT) and to facilitate Health Information Exchange (HIE) in Wisconsin. In 2011 Marshfield Clinic providers wrote ~2million prescriptions of which ~1million were electronically prescribed to internal and external pharmacies, noting that 170,000 Schedule II prescriptions required paper scripts. Those paper scripts required specialized and secured non-transferable, non-duplicative paper, dedicated printers, and the time of staff to send such scripts off on a timely basis. SB 317 will streamline the process of prescribing such medications for patient safety, efficiency and accessibility and for appropriate patient care.

Marshfield Clinic supports SB 317 and thanks Sen. Vukmir for championing this bill. Thank you for your time. I will gladly answer any questions.

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*One Voice. One Vision.*

**Testimony by Tom Engels, Vice President of Public Affairs, Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin**

**Before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Health in Support of Senate Bill 317**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

Thank you Chair Vukmir and members of the Senate Committee on Health for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 317 (SB 317) related to electronic prescriptions for schedule II controlled substances.

Senate Bill 317 would amend current law to allow prescribers and pharmacies to send and receive schedule II controlled substances contingent upon both healthcare providers meeting the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements. Under current law, schedule III, IV and V controlled substances may be prescribed and dispensed electronically, but they too must meet the DEA requirements.

The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin supports this legislation because it will create efficiencies and protections within the current pharmacy system. According to the DEA's Office of Diversion Control, approximately 11 percent of all prescription orders are for a controlled substance. Further, roughly 90 percent of prescribers write prescriptions for controlled substances.

Effective June 1, 2010, the DEA Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substance regulations became effective. This federal rule revised DEA regulations to provide prescribers with the option of writing prescriptions for controlled substances electronically. The regulations also permit pharmacies to receive, dispense and file controlled substances electronically. Although this regulation is in effect, the decision of a pharmacy to accept orders electronically is voluntary.

This legislation simply adds schedule II controlled substances to the current list of controlled substances that can be transmitted electronically in Wisconsin. The security of the system that is used is dictated by federal DEA requirements.

It is our strong belief that electronic prescription orders will reduce incidences of adverse drug events and will decrease errors caused by orders that cannot be clearly read. Additionally, electronic orders will reduce incidences of fraud and abuse because the orders will be electronically sent to pharmacies by the patient's prescribing physician and negate the ability to alter the prescription order.

On behalf of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, we are requesting your support of SB 317. Thank you again for this opportunity. I will try to answer any questions that committee members may have on this bill.